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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)  
SUBJECT Operations of Wismut AG

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Statement of the Grades of Uranium Ores at Wismuth AG:

The activity of the ores is determined with the aid of the Geiger counter and proved by the so-called radiation-meter (Radionedristen). This work is done mostly by women.

2. The ore is separated into the following grades:
  - a. Pure pitchblend, to 180 radioamperes
  - b. Pitchblend with earth, from 80 to 180 radioamperes
  - c. Also called active material, is material which is strongly radioactive, up to 80 radioamperes.
3. The grades of ore are packed separately for shipment. Grades one and two are packed on the spot in wood or cardboard containers and after every shift are taken into security by Russian shaft inspectors. On the other hand, grade three is collected by automobiles and taken in the next following shipment of ore.
4. The Wismuth AG at the present time has the following ore-refining works in operation:
  - a. Objekt 97, in Johanngeorgenstadt. There the ore is treated by chemical processes. The following Objekts deliver their ore production to Objekt 97: Objekts one and eight, both in Johanngeorgenstadt
  - b. Objekt 100, in Aue. This Objekt is located on the ground floor of the former Blaufarbenwerke. Here the ore is recovered by both chemical and physical means.

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- c. Objekt 101, in Zwickau Grossen. This Objekt is located on the ground floor of the Former Leonhardischen paper factory. Objekt 101 is the largest ore refinery the Wismuth AG has in operation. It is also the most modern in construction. It is the central works for the grade three active material, and for this purpose is equipped with all means for chemical processes. The grade three ore from all the producing Objekte, such as one, eight, two, 11, 24 and 30 is delivered here; here also the residues from Objekte 97 and 100 are re-treated.
  - d. Objekt 96, in Freital bei Dresden. Here ore is given only a preliminary treatment and is then sent to Objekt 67 in Schneeberg to be concentrated. The treatment is by chemical process.
  - e. Objekt 67, in Schneeberg. Objekt 67 is the finishing works of Wismuth AG. All the ore refineries deliver their concentrates here. Here it is purified again, and then packed in metal tubes and hermetically sealed. It is then ready for shipment. The forwarding is done from the main office of Wismuth AG in Chemnitz-Siegar.
5. The working processes of ore treatment are different in each plant. There is a wet and a dry process. Each plant has its own method and equipment. The Wismuth AG has also constructed various testing works. Ore from a single shaft is delivered to these works for determination of its quality. Two of these testing works are in Ereitenbrunn at the railway, and in Auehammer.
  6. The ore works are given security by strong Soviet military pos and the MVD. There is a high board fence around each works. Entrance to a refinery is only possible by special pass from General Melzow, the head of Wismuth AG. The German workmen employed are thoroughly searched upon leaving the works by Soviet MVD soldiers, to see if they have concentrates on them. For this purpose a Geiger counter is also used upon entry and leaving. In some works, in addition, a change-over is being made, letting the German workmen go and employing only Russian soldiers.

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7. The principal machines pertaining to ore refining are as follows:
- |                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Breakers         | from Firma Krupp Gruson, Magdeburg |
| Ball mills       | do.                                |
| Jigging machines | do.                                |
| Mixers           | do.                                |
| Vats             | do.                                |
| Presses          |                                    |
| Roasters         |                                    |
| Drying ovens     |                                    |
8. A short description of a preparatory process at Objekt 96, in Freital:
9. The ore is conveyed to a breaker and there reduced to small pieces. It goes then to the ball mill, where it is ground to fine bits. The ore is then mixed with acid in large wooden vats. The ore-mash is now stirred continuously in an agitator and transferred from one vat into another. When the mush or paste has passed through all six vats, the acid is settled with a caustic soda solution, after which the ore-mash is pressed out. It all goes to the drying oven.
10. In the physical treatment following, a mixing process is carried through with large mixing-shovels. The mixing procedure has to be carried out very carefully for if the proof-sample taken from the mixture does not meet the proper standard, the whole work must be done over again.

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